



Parma Woods

Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

Fall 2006

Memory Lane“the October sun was just starting to hit the forest floor”

The other day I was asked, “What is your favorite thing to hunt?”. I stood there, thinking, for what must have seemed like an eternity to the fellow who asked me the question. Then it hit me, and I replied honestly, “I don’t know!”

I stood there thinking about all the memorable hunts I’ve had in my life. There were images of beautiful drake pintails cupped and committed to my decoy spread. Then memories of standing in a partially frozen November marsh and thousands of mallards wanting to be in the same spot. There were views of golden sunflower fields overflowing with doves. I saw rooster pheasants exploding from cover, tom turkeys strutting, and whitetail bucks sparring. But one image kept coming back to me. It was dawn and the sun was just starting to hit the forest floor painting that familiar red-orange glow on everything around me. I was sitting on the ground with my back rested against the dark, pitted bark of a mature walnut tree. The mid-October morning cold air revealed my warm breath. I heard a noise and knew instantly what I was looking for. Ah-ha, there he was...a big, fat, fox squirrel nestled at the base of a large branch, his tail lifted up to shade his eyes from the ever-glowing sun. He just kept gnawing away at the little brown nut he held in his hands. The rest of the story doesn’t matter much. The point is that this thought takes me back. Like many other hunters, I started out by chasing bushytails. Squirrels are a right of passage for many, and game that can challenge and often humble even good hunters.

Two species of tree squirrels occur in Missouri and both live in our area. The fox squirrel is the larger of the two. Almost everyone knows this critter that is a common sight in the Kansas City landscape. Its orange-brown color blends in well with the fall woods. The gray squirrel is slightly smaller than its cousin and wears a gray colored coat. The tips of the hairs on its tail turn white. These two critters offer a great opportunity to enjoy hunting close to home, a plus when gas prices are high.

Squirrel hunting doesn’t require highly special-



ized equipment. Any size shotgun will work well as long as you choose the right combination of choke and load. A .22 caliber rimfire rifle will also do a fine job of taking squirrels. Remember though that many conservation areas prohibit the use of single projectile firearms. If you really want to challenge yourself, try hunting squirrels with a bow and arrow or a slingshot.

Squirrels are not considered one of the hardest game animals to harvest, but they are smart. They will test anyone’s skills from time to time. Camo should be worn to increase success. Calling can be effective at times, but is most often used as a locator. You can stalk squirrels as practice for big game, or you can just sit quietly in an area where you know they feed and travel. Keep your movements to a minimum to increase the odds that bushytails will venture into your shooting range.

With liberal limits, squirrels can produce great table fare for the whole family. Use a slow, moist cooking method such as a crock pot or making stew. You can also cook them hot and fast such as in chicken-fried squirrel. Keep in mind that squirrel meat is quick to dry out. The key to successful meal preparation is experimentation. Attend my wild game cooking class, and I may even reveal a few secrets.

Get out this fall and help make some lasting memories, especially for one or more novice hunters. You never know, maybe if they are asked about it 20 years from now they’ll recall a special cold morning in October, a squirrel sitting on a limb, and the sun hitting the forest floor.

Nathan Woodland

Fall Events Calendar

All classes are free unless otherwise noted. All equipment is provided free by the Missouri Department of Conservation. You must pre-register by calling 816-891-9941.

OCTOBER

Wild Game Cooking

Tempt your taste buds with all sorts of critters. We'll show you how to cook 'em.

Oct. 3 (Tues.), 6-8 pm

Care for Taxidermy

Learn what you can do to make life easy for your taxidermist, and what you can do to protect your valuable trophy.

Oct. 4 (Wed.), 6-8 pm

Basic Firearms

Learn how to safely handle firearms. Covers all types of firearms and includes live firing. **Must be 11 years and older.**

Oct. 5 (Thurs.), 6-8 pm

Oct. 7 (Sat.), 8-10 am

Hunter Education Class

Earn your Hunter Education Certification. Pre-register by contacting the Kansas City Regional Office at (816) 655-6250.

Oct. 7 (Sat.), 8 am-6 pm

RANGE CLOSED - Oct. 9 (Mon.)

Scope Mounting

Now is the time to get ready for the deer season. Bring your rifle and new scope to the range and let our staff help get you on target.

Oct. 10 (Tue.), 6-8 pm

Bird House Building

Learn how to build a bird house to make your yard more attractive to wildlife.

Oct. 11 (Wed.), 6-8 pm

Ladies Firearms Class

Learn how to safely handle firearms. Covers all types of firearms and includes live firing. **For ladies 11 years and older.**

Oct. 12 (Thurs.), 6-8 pm

Oct. 14 (Sat.), 8-10 am

Map and Compass

Learn map and compass navigation basics.

Oct. 14 (Sat.), 9-11 am

Hunter Education Class

This 3-night course will teach you how to be a safe, responsible hunter. Students will be certified upon successful completion of the class.

Oct. 17/18/19 (Tues./Wed./Thurs.), 5:30-9 pm each night

Basic Archery

Learn the fundamentals to be successful in the sport of archery.

Oct. 21 (Sat.), 9 am-noon

Campfire Buidling

Learn how to safely build a campfire to meet your needs.

Oct. 24 (Tues.), 6-8 pm

Bird Feeder Building

Build a bird feeder and learn how to attract birds to your property.

Oct. 25 (Wed.), 6-8 pm

Knife Sharpening

Outdoor enthusiasts know the importance of a sharp knife. Learn how to put and keep a good edge on all of your knives.

Oct. 26 (Thurs.), 6-8 pm

Firearm Cleaning and Care

Learn how to keep all of your firearms in like-new condition.

Oct. 28 (Sat.), 9-11 am

N.R.A. Basic Rifle Course

Learn safe, responsible rifle shooting during this 2-day course. Receive N.R.A. Certification upon successful completion.

Oct. 28/29 (Sat./Sun.) 9 am-5 pm both days

NOVEMBER

Scope Mounting

Now is the time to get ready for the deer season. Bring your rifle and new scope to the range and let our staff help get you on target.

Nov. 1 (Wed.), 6-8 pm

Bird House Building

Learn how to build a bird house to make your yard more attractive to wildlife.

Nov. 2 (Thurs.), 6-8 pm

Adult Novice Duck Hunting Clinic

Ever wanted to try duck hunting, but don't know where to start? We'll show you what you need. Participants will be invited to a special duck hunt on November 4.

Nov. 3 (Fri.), 5:30-9 pm

Adult Novice Duck Hunt

Experience the excitement of a duck hunting. **You must attend the Adult Novice Duck Hunting Clinic on Nov. 3**

Nov. 4

Hunter Education Class

Earn your Hunter Education Certification. Pre-register by contacting the Kansas City Regional Office at (816) 655-6250.

Nov. 4 (Sat.), 8 am-6 pm

Hunter Education Class

This 3-night course will teach you how to be a safe, responsible hunter. Students will be certified upon successful completion of the class.

Nov. 7/8/9 (Tues./Wed./Thurs.), 5:30-9 pm each night

Basic .22

Learn how to shoot safely and improve your marksmanship using a .22 rifle. **Must be 8 years or older.**

Nov. 11 (Sat.), 9-11 am

Rabbit Trap Building

Learn to build a simple trap to capture nuisance rabbits.

Nov. 16 (Thurs.), 6-8 pm

Deer Processing

Learn how to save money by processing your own deer. Learn everything from skinning to packaging and freezing.

Nov. 18 (Sat.), 8 am-noon

Deep Fry Cooking

Learn how to safely cook and enjoy all types of deep-fried foods.

Nov. 21 (Tue.), 6-8 pm

RANGE CLOSED - Nov. 23 (Thurs.)

N.R.A. Basic Pistol Course

Learn safe, responsible pistol shooting and earn N.R.A. certification.

Nov. 25 (Sat.), 8 am-6 pm

Firearm Selection for the Beginner

Want to start shooting or hunting, but are overwhelmed by all the firearms to choose from? Let us help you make a selection.

Nov. 29 (Wed.), 6-8 pm

DECEMBER

Youth Rabbit Clinic and Hunt

Experience the fun and excitement of rabbit hunting. Learn how to get started hunting including basic firearm safety, safe gun handling in the field, wildlife management, regulations, and rabbit hunting equipment. **Open to youths ages 11-15 who MUST have a licensed adult sponsor attend with them.**

Dec. 1 (Fri.), 5:30-9 pm

Dec. 2 (Sat.), start of legal shooting time

Hunter Education Class

Earn your Hunter Education Certification. Pre-register by contacting the Kansas City Regional Office at (816) 655-6250.

Dec. 2 (Sat.), 8 am-6 pm

Venison Cooking

Learn what to do with your deer meat so the whole family will like it. Come hungry!

Dec. 6 (Wed.), 6-8 pm

Woodworking for Wildlife

Learn some simple projects you can build to help wildlife in your area.

Dec. 7 (Thurs.), 6-8 pm

Duck Decoy Building

Learn how to make your own decoys. You will paint your own to take home.

Dec. 9 (Sat.), 9 am-noon

N.R.A. Personal Protection Course

Learn the in's and out's of personal protection. Become N.R.A. certified upon successful completion of the course.

Dec. 9 (Sat.), 8 am-6 pm

Jerky Making

Learn how to make your own jerky for family and friends to enjoy.

Dec. 13 (Wed.), 6-8 pm

Firearm Cleaning and Care

Learn how to keep all of your firearms in like-new condition.

Dec. 14 (Thurs.), 6-8 pm

Intro to Wingshooting

Learn everything you need to get started wingshooting today.

Dec. 16 (Sat.), 9 am-noon

Knife Sharpening

Outdoor enthusiasts know the importance of a sharp knife. Learn how to put and keep a good edge on all of your knives.

Dec. 20 (Wed.), 6-8 pm

Modern Arrow Building

Learn how to make your own arrows.

Dec. 21 (Thurs.), 6-8 pm

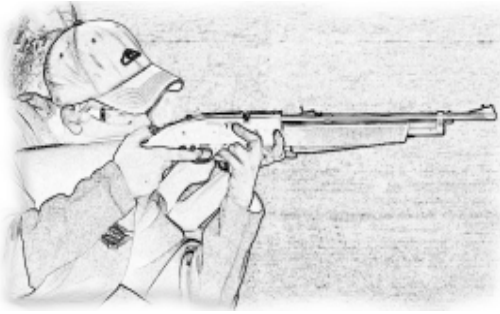
Youth Air Rifle

Introduce youth to shooting in a safe environment. **Must be 5 yrs and older.**

Dec. 23 (Sat.), 9 am-noon

RANGE CLOSED - Dec. 25 (Mon.)





RANGE HOURS: October 1 - December 31

Friday-Tuesday: noon-4:30pm

To help with the hunting season rush, we will open
at 10 AM Saturday and Sunday through the
Missouri deer season opener on November 11.

Volunteers Still Needed

Parma Woods Range and Outdoor Education Center is still looking for qualified applicants to help meet our volunteer staffing goals. If you are interested in any aspect of the outdoors, please contact Nathan or Russell at the range (816-891-9941) to see how you can share your love of hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities with others. Help us create opportunities for those who might not otherwise have the chance to enjoy the outdoors.



Check out the latest Parma Woods news at: www.mdc.missouri.gov/areas/ranges/parma/

PRSR.T.STD.
US Postage Paid
Jefferson City Mo
Permit 274

Parma Woods Shooting Range & Outdoor Ed. Center
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